

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Outdoor Loading and Unloading

General Guidelines

Develop an operations plan that describes procedures for loading and/or unloading. Load/unload only at designated loading areas. Pave loading areas with concrete instead of asphalt, if possible.

Conduct loading and unloading in dry weather if possible. Have employees load and unload all materials and equipment in covered areas such as building overhangs at loading docks, if feasible. Cover designated loading/unloading areas to reduce exposure of materials to rain. Consider placing a seal or door skirt between delivery vehicles and building to prevent exposure to rain.



Design loading/unloading area to prevent stormwater run-on, which would include grading or berming the area, and positioning roof downspouts so they direct stormwater away from the loading/unloading areas. Grade and/or berm the loading/unloading area to a drain that is connected to a form of containment.

Use drip pans underneath hose and pipe connections and other leak-prone spots during liquid transfer operations, and when making and breaking connections. Several drip pans should be stored in a covered location near the liquid transfer area so that they are always available, yet protected from precipitation when not in use. Drip pans can be made specifically for railroad tracks. Drip pans must be cleaned periodically, and drip collected materials must be disposed of properly.

Sweep up and dispose of any loose debris remaining after loading/unloading is completed.

Inspection

- Check loading and unloading equipment regularly for leaks, including valves, pumps, flanges and connections. Look for dust or fumes during loading or unloading operations.
- Designate a responsible party to check under delivery vehicles for leaking fluids, spilled materials, debris, or other foreign materials.

Spill Response and Prevention/Training

- Keep your Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan up-to-date. Have an emergency spill cleanup plan readily available and ensure that employees are familiar with the plan.
- Train employees (e.g., fork lift operators) and contractors on proper spill containment and cleanup. Train employees in proper handling techniques during liquid transfers to avoid spills. Make sure forklift operators are properly trained on loading and unloading procedures.
- Contain leaks during transfer. Use drip pans or comparable devices when transferring oils, solvents, and paints.
- Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials in a location that is readily accessible and known to all.